

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 96

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Dr. Richard W. Phillips upon his selection as President of the Southern College of Optometry.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those outstanding Tennesseans who have risen to the top of their respective professions and who have been chosen by their peers to assume roles of leadership; and

WHEREAS, one such eminent resident of this State is Dr. Richard W. Phillips, OD, of Johnson City, who has the distinct honor of being selected to serve as the sixth president of the Southern College of Optometry (SCO) in Memphis; he previously served as the President of the Southern Council of Optometrists; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Phillips graduated from Milligan College in 1974 and from the Southern College of Optometry in 1978, where he earned placement on the Dean's list in two years of study; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Phillips worked for many years in private practice and was a founding partner of John Wilson Eye Clinic in Johnson City, establishing the first optometry/ophthalmology partnership in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in bringing a new laser technology to the Tri-Cities region of Tennessee, and he helped establish TriCities Laser Center, a subsidiary of TLC The Laser Center, Inc., in Johnson City; he served as its Executive Director for ten years and as Regional Director for five years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Phillips has held a number of leadership positions within the optometric profession, including past President of the Tennessee Academy of Optometry, and past President of the Tennessee Optometric Association, former chair of the Professional Relations

Committee of the American Optometric Association, and a former fellow of the American Academy of Optometry; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his field, Dr. Phillips is the author of numerous articles and papers and has traveled throughout the United States as a lecturer and educator; he was recognized in 1998 by the Tennessee Optometric Association as the "Optometrist of the Year," a fitting recognition of his excellence in the field; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Phillips proudly and actively served his country with the Air National Guard, 164th Tactical Clinic, earning the rank of Captain prior to an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force Reserve; and

WHEREAS, he has been a faithful supporter of both his church and his community throughout his whole life, starting with his participation in the Johnson City Centennial Singers in the 1960s and continuing with his current volunteerism in the local hospital; and

WHEREAS, he has selflessly given of his time and financial support to many outreach programs and artistic and philanthropic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, of notable achievement is Dr. Phillips' leadership and fundraising efforts that rescued the Johnson City Community Theater from bankruptcy, thus ensuring the survival of the oldest operating community theater in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dr. Phillips is fortunate to enjoy the love and companionship of his wife, Lucy Hill Phillips; together they are the proud parents of Melissa, Richard, and Sarah; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to honor this community leader and outstanding member of his profession; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Dr. Richard W. Phillips upon the occasion of his selection as the President of the Southern College of Optometry, thank him for his years of service to his profession and to the citizens of this State, and offer him our best wishes for every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.